Gras communicates a paper on some botanical synonyms. The plants referred to in the last-mentioned paper are *Lindernia palustris* Crantz, anterior to *L. pyxidaria* Linn., and identical with *Anagalloides procumbens* Krock.; *Scirpus quinqueflorus* Crantz; *Stellaria graminea* Linn.; *Galeopsis segetum* Neck.; *Euphorbia sequieriana* Neck.; and *Statice cordata* Linn., said to be distinct from the species so named by Gusson, which is here noticed as *Statice Gussonii*.

THE Proceedings of the Bohemian Society of Sciences contain several papers by M. Emil Weyr on subjects belonging to the higher mathematics, the titles of which it would be useless to give here. One of his papers, however, is on the curves of maximum and minimum electro-magnetic action.—Dr. A. Grünwald also communicates a paper on some differential equations with variable coefficients, and Prof. Blagek a short notice on the triaxial ellipsoid. The titles of several natural history papers are given; one by Dr. Schöbl on the termination of the sensitive nerves in newly-discovered terminal corpuscles in the wing membrane of the chiroptera, and on the minute structure of the membrane is printed in full. This paper has appeared with illustrations in Siebold and Kölliker's "Zeitschrift für wissenschaftiche Zoologie."—A short notice is given of a lecture by M. Wocel on the significance of stone and bronze antiquities in the primitive history of the Sclavonic tribes, founded on the study of a large collection of casts of such objects from the Ural, Altai, Caucasus, &c.

THE *Verein für Erdkunde* in Dresden published last year its sixth and seventh annual reports, including its proceedings for the sessions 1868–69, and 1869–70. The abstracts of proceedings contain a multitude of short notes upon the results of travels made by members of the Society, and a report upon the doings of the sections of the Society in furtherance of its objects. Besides these, we have in an appendix three memoirs of some importance, namely, contributions to the knowledge of the Hottentots, by M. T. Hahn, relating especially to the language of the "Nama" tribes, but containing besides much interesting matter; a geographical sketch of the Murray and Darling district in Australia, by Dr. H. Beckler; and a curious contribution to the history of geography during the latter half of the Middle Ages, giving an account of the maps and charts of the seafaring peoples of Southern Europe up to the first printing of Ptolemy's Geography, by M. Heinrich Wuttke.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

Royal Society, March 9.—"Results of Seven Years' Observations of the Dip and Horizontal Force at Stonyhurst College Observatory, from 1863 to March 1870." By the Rev. S. J. Perry.

The object of the present paper is to bring further evidence to bear upon an important question of terrestrial magnetism.

The existence of a sensible semi-annual inequality in the earth's magnetic elements, dependent on the position of the sun in the ecliptic, was deduced by General Sir Edward Sabine from a discussion in 1863 of a continuous series of the monthly magnetic observations taken at Kew. A previous reduction of observations made at Hobarton and at Toronto had first suggested the idea, and a new confirmation of the results has lately been obtained by Dr. Balfour Stewart from subjecting a second series of Kew observations to the same tests as before. The observations, which form the basis of the present discussion, extend over the period from March 1863 to February 1870, during which time the same instruments have been in constant use. These are a Jones unifilar and a dip-circle by Barrow, both tested at Kew, and a Frodsham chronometer. Sir Edward Sabine, who made the Stonyhurst Observatory one of his magnetic stations in the English survey in 1858, greatly encouraged the undertaking of monthly magnetic observations, and the Rev. A. Weld procured in consequence the instruments still in use. Only occasional observations were made with these instruments for some years, and it was only in 1863 that a continuous series of monthly determinations of the magnetic elements was started by the Rev. W. Sidgreaves. He observed regularly until September 1868, when I returned to my former post at the Observatory, and have continued the same work ever since.

A stone pillar was at first erected for the magnetic instruments in the open garden, and this remained in use from 1858 until the beginning of 1868, when a most convenient hut of glass and wood was built for the instruments in a retired corner of the College garden. This alteration was rendered necessary from the placing of iron rails in the vicinity of the old pillar; and although it introduces into the results a correction for change of station, it has the great advantage of securing immunity from disturbance for the future.

Considering the object in view in drawing up this reduced form of the dip and horizontal-force observations, I have judged it advisable to adhere strictly to the tabular forms in which the matter has been presented in previous discussions of a similar nature. Each element is the subject matter of these tables. In the first are the monthly values of the element, the deduced mean value, and its secular variation. Next in order comes the calculation of the semi-annual inequality. The residual errors, and consequent probable weights of the observations and results, compose the third and last table.

The yearly mean values of the horizontal force are found to vary progressively from 3·5926 to 3·6178 in British units, the mean for Oct. 1st, 1866, being 3 6034, with a secular acceleration of 0·0042. Calculating from the monthly tables the mean value of the horizontal force for the six months from April to September, and for the semi-annual period from October to March, we find the former to be 0·0005 in excess over the latter, showing that this component of the intensity is greater during the summer than during the winter months. Treating the dip observations in a precisely similar way, we obtain 69° 45′ 21″ as the mean value of this element for October 1st, 1866, subject to a secular diminution of 1′ 49″·2; the extreme yearly means being 69° 48′ 47″ and 69° 37′ 52″. The resulting excess of 10″ for the winter months in the computed semi-annual means is so small, that the observations tend mainly to show that the effect of the sun's position is not clearly manifested by any decided variation in the dip. Deducing the intensity from the above elements, we obtain for the summer months the value 10·4136, whilst that for the winter months is 10·4128. The intensity of the earth's magnetic force would thus appear to increase with the sun's distance, but the difference is not large enough to have more than a negative weight in the question under discussion. This weight, moreover, is lessened by the slight uncertainty arising from the probable disturbing causes at the first magnetic station.

It is hoped that a second series of observations at the new station will throw greater light on the fact of the sun's influence on terrestrial magnetism, by either confirming the results obtained above, or by adding fresh weight to the conclusions arrived at by the President of the Royal Society.

"Preliminary Notice on the Production of the Olefines from Paraffin by Distillation under Pressure." By Dr. Thorpe and John Young.

"Contributions to the History of the Opium Alkaloids. Part I.—On the Action of Hydrobromic Acid on Codeia." By C. R. A. Wright, D.Sc.

Mathematical Society, March 9.—Mr. W. Spottiswoode, F.R.S., president, in the chair. Mr. C. R. Hodgson, B.A. Lond., was elected a member: and the following gentlemen were proposed for election:—The Hon. J. W. Strutt, Major F. Close, R.A., and Mr. James Stuart, Fellow and Assistant-Tutor of Trinity College, Cambridge. Two models of surfaces were exhibited by Prof. Henrici, which had been exhibited and described at previous meetings of the society. Prof. H. J. S. Smith, F.R.S., read a paper on "Skew cubics." The secretary (Mr. Tucker) then read a communication from Prof. J. Clerk Maxwell, F.R.S., entitled "Remarks on the Mathematical Classification of Physical Quantities." The classification referred to was founded on the mathematical or formal analogy of the different quantities, and not on the matter to which they belong. Thus a finite straight line, or force, or velocity of rotation, &c., are quantities, differing in their physical nature, but agreeing in their mathematical form. The two methods of classification, the one just referred to and the obvious classification founded on that of the sciences in which the quantities occur, may be distinguished by calling the first a mathematical and the second a physical classification of quantities. The secretary afterwards read a "Note on the History of certain Formulæ in Spherical Trigonometry," communicated by Mr. I. Todhunter, F.R.S., in which the formulæ usually known as Gauss' Analogies were claimed for Delambre. Dr. Hirst presented ten "Memoirs by M. Chasles" to the library of the society.

Entomological Society, March 6.—Mr. A. R. Wallace, president, in the chair. Baron de Selys-Longchamps was elected an honorary member, the Rev. T. A. Preston an ordinary member, and Mr. G. C. Champion a subscriber. Mr. Jenner Weir exhibited a small collection of butterflies from Madagascar. Mr. F. Smith exhibited two small branches of ash, from which a hornet had been observed in the act of removing the bark. He said that Réaumur had recorded a similar observation, and was of opinion that the insect was trying to reach the sap for food, and was not obtaining building materials. Mr. Smith further made some remarks on the disputed luminosity of Fulgora, and expressed himself in favour of the opinion that these insects are occasionally luminous.—Mr. Müller read notes on a gall-making Cecidomyia upon *Campanula rotundifolia.*—Mr. Lewis called attention to cases of antennal malformation in Lepidoptera.—Mr. Butler exhibited forms of *Cœnonympha Satyrion* from the opposite sides of the Gemmis, showing marked variation.—Dr. Sharp communicated notes on some British species of Oxypoda.—Mr. Lowne read a paper on "Immature sexuality in insects." The author thought that species sometimes originated from the maturity of the sexual organisation before the acquirement of adult characters; a conclusion he had arrived at in consequence of the early development of the organs in the embryo and larva. He further stated that, in his opinion, the larval and pupal conditions were probably acquired, and not direct, stages of development.—Mr. Briggs detailed experiments upon Lepidoptera, undertaken with a view of testing if the numerical proportion of the sexes, or sex itself, were dependent upon the food of the larva; the results negatived such suppositions.

Zoological Society, March 7.—Prof. Flower, F.R.S., in the chair. Mr. P. L. Sclater read the first part of a series of "Notes on rare or little-known animals now or lately living in the Society's Gardens."—These he had drawn up while engaged in preparing a new edition of the List of Vertebrated Animals in the Society's collection.—Dr. A. Günther read a List of the known Lizards belonging to the family *Sepidæ*, to which were added notes on some of the species.—A communication was read from Mr. F. Moore on some new species of Insects collected by Dr. John Anderson, during the recent expedition to Yunan.—A communication was read from Mr. A. G. Butler, containing descriptions of some new species and of a new genus of Diurnal Lepidoptera of the family *Pierinæ*, with a monographic list of the species of the genus *Ixias.*—Mr. A. D. Bartlett, Superintendent of the Society's Gardens, read notes on the birth of the Hippopotamus which had lately taken place in the Society's Gardens.

Hackney Scientific Association, February 28.—"The Fossil remains of the Mammalia found in the Lea Valley," by Mr. R. E. Olliver. Some extensive excavations in this district have recently exposed to view numerous beds of shell-marl, peat, loam, sand, and gravel, and, what is more interesting, have brought to light the remains of an ancient mammalian fauna. These remains chiefly belong to living species, as may be inferred by the deposit being assigned to the Post-Tertiary epoch. The mammalian remains which have up to the present time been determined are—Human remains, wild horse, red, fallow, and reindeer, elk, beaver, fox, wolf, goat, great fossil ox, Celtic shorthorn or small fossil ox, domestic ox, wild hog, gigantic round-antlered deer, mammoth, great cave bear, and the remains of an ox closely resembling *Bos longifrons*, which the writer strongly suspects to belong to a disputed series named *Bosfrontosus*. The fossil bones attesting the existence of these mammalia are found principally in the shell-marls and peat mosses, with the exception of the mammoth, cave bear, and great round-antlered deer, which are found in the grey sub-angular gravels, and rarely at a less depth than ten feet from the surface. The human remains, consisting of several skulls, possibly belong to that class named by Prof. Huxley the river-bed-skull. These skulls certainly belong to that period when the great fossil ox and elk were living, and not to that of the mammoth and cave bear. If, however, the evidence of the workmen is reliable, several skulls were found at a depth of thirty feet.—"A Catalogue of Variable Stars, with remarks upon their physical constitution."

CAMBRIDGE

Philosophical Society, February 27.—Communications made to the Society:—By Mr. W. H. H. Hudson, St. John's College, "On Observations made at San Antonio on the Solar Eclipse of Dec. 22, 1870." By Mr. Clifford, Trinity College, and Mr. Moulton, Christ's College, "On the Solar Eclipse of 1870." Mr. Hudson described the observations made at San Antonio during the eclipse, and with regard to his own with the polariscope came to the following conclusion: that observations of polarisation made with telescopes not specially prepared for the process are worthless, and that such polarisation of the corona as he was able to detect was due to the intervening atmosphere; appearances of polarisation being produced when light shines through a thin cloud. Prof. W. G. Adams exhibited with the lime light some photographs of the corona, and commented upon them. Mr. Clifford, who had been with the Sicilian party, described his experiences, and differed to some extent from Mr. Hudson as to the instrumental defects and the absence of polarisation: while Mr. Moulton corroborated Mr. Hudson's conclusions, and read a very interesting communication from Father Perry, summing up the results of the spectroscopic observations at the various stations.

WINCHESTER AND HAMPSHIRE

Scientific and Literary Society, February 22.—The Rev. G. A. Seymour, M.A., and Beresford N. Earle, M.A., M.B., Fellow of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, were elected members. There was a good show of objects of interest in natural history, amongst which, exhibited by the president, was a collection of British land and fresh water shells, and a specimen of recent chalk dredged by Dr. Carpenter from a depth of 2,435 fathoms in the Atlantic. Microscopic slides of the same were exhibited by Mr. F. I. Warner, showing the unbounded amount of animal life at that enormous depth. Dr. Heale showed, under the microscope, the curious movement of the spiral vessels of the Collomia seed.—The Rev. W. Awdry, M.A., read a learned and interesting paper entitled "Some Ideas worked out in Gothic Architecture."

GLASGOW

Geological Society, February 2.—Mr. John Young, V.P., in the chair. "On the Boulders found in Cuttings on the Beith Branch Railway, considered in Relation to their Parent Rock; with observations on the local character of the Boulder Clay," by Mr. Robert Craig. The lines of railway referred to, now in course of formation, run nearly south-east from Beith, changing as it reaches Waterland to direct east. The striations upon the glaciated rock-surfaces in the district have a general bearing, per compass, of nearly N.E. to S.W.; the line accordingly, at its western terminus, crosses them almost at right angles. The cuttings run nearly parallel to the southern termination of that range of trap hills which extends from Gleniffer to Beith, and at the distance of little more than a mile from it. The carboniferous strata crop out along the southern boundary of this trap range, and consequently about a mile to the north of the railway. In the trap range four well-marked varieties of porphyrite occur, which, with the easily distinguished beds of the Carboniferous limestone, gave the geologist an opportunity of classifying the boulders and tracing them to their source with an exactitude not always attainable. Mr. Craig then referred to the boulders from a distance, consisting of Old Red sandstone, clay slate, mica and chlorite schists, quartz, gneiss, granite, found associated and intermixed with the local boulders. Of these the Old Red sandstone figures highest, and consists of two varieties—one of a highly red colour, the other of a dark grey. Both of these are found *in situ* along the shores of the Firth of Clyde, and in other parts of Scotland, flanking the Highland mountains. He considered these erratics might be accounted for without either drift-ice or submergence, simply by the operation of land-ice, or glaciers, bearing these fragments in passing from the Highland mountains, whose tops, many of them, would be 1,000 feet above the ice, even allowing the sheet to be 2,000 feet thick. It was well-known that ice, in moving over uneven ground, became rent into fissures and crevasses, down through which the stones it was carrying on its surface found their way to the bottom, and thus became mixed up with the "foot-board moraine." In further proof of this, he gave the highest points above the cuttings whence the local boulders could have been derived, showing that these boulders could not have fallen upon the surface of an ice sheet thicker than 200 feet; and, besides, that many of them came from beds scarcely higher than the position in which they are now found. The perfectly local character of the boulder-clay, with the exception of the erratics, he thought was demonstrated; and from some sections in which he had followed the course of the ice-stream, he found that there was a change in the boulders every three to five miles, less or more, according to the roughness or evenness of the ground.—A collection of phosphates from Charleston, U.S., was exhibited by Mr. Potts and Mr. Naismith, together with some large fossil teeth, vertebræ, &c., from the same locality. Mr. Potts stated that large quantities of these phosphates are being used in America, and also imported into this country, for the manufacture of artificial manures. The deposit from which they are taken is found along the banks of many of the rivers in South Carolina, and immediately under the surface soil of the land lying between; and is supposed to underlie a large portion of the coast and sea-island region of that part of America. It consists of layers, varying six inches to several feet in thickness, of irregularly rounded nodules, mixed up with an immense quantity of bones—ribs, vertebræ, tusks—of various species of animals, all more or less petrified. The nodules yield 50 to 60 per cent. of bone phosphate; while from some of the bones as much as 80 to 85 per cent. of this fertilising substance had been obtained. The Chairman said there could be no doubt this remarkable deposit of phosphates belonged to the Tertiary period; and probably its earlier division, the Eocene. The Tertiary formation is largely developed along the southern coast of North America, stretching in a belt of considerable breadth from North Carolina to the Gulf of Mexico, and leaving the coast-line only at the delta of the Mississippi. The whole series of fossils, like those before them, indicated a much warmer climate than now prevailed in that part of the world, and showed that the waters of the sea were teeming with large and powerful forms of life.

DUBLIN

Royal Dublin Society, February 20.—Dr. Croker King in the chair. Prof. Macalister delivered a discourse "On Recent Advances made in Comparative Anatomy." He alluded to the investigations of Kowalersky published in the Transactions of the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg as to the relationship that exists between the Ascidians and Vertebrates; also to the many recent investigations into the comparative myology of the upper and lower extremities, and alluded to a very simple yet neat nomenclature of the muscles of these parts.

Natural History Society, March 1.—Rev. Dr. Haughton, F.R.S., in the chair. A paper was read by Mr. G. H. Kinahan on ferns observed in Yar or West Connaught, the part of Co. Galway that lies west of Loughs Mask and Corrib, with localities of a few rare ferns in south-west Sligo.—Mr. W. Andrews read a paper, "Notes on the Ichthyology of the South-West Coast of Ireland." It is always of interest to bring to notice any new facts either in the zoology or botany of a country or district, but more especially so when any discovery can be recorded which presents new features of animal or vegetable life, the existence of which had not been previously known. The chief remark conveyed in this paper is with reference to the capture in January last on the south-west coast of several specimens of a fish of extremely rare occurrence, the *Trichiurus lepturus*; the occurrence of *Centrolopus pompilus* in numbers off the coast of Dingle was also mentioned, and also that of a fine specimen of the tunny caught in Brandon Bay, October 1869. The author gave many details as to the structure of the *Trichiurus*, and concluded with stating that he felt confident that we have not yet gleaned the extent of interest that exists in the marine zoology of our shores, or of the deep water of our coasts.

Royal Zoological and Geological Societies of Ireland, March 8.—Prof. Hull, F.R.S., in the chair. The Rev. Dr. Haughton, F.R.S., read a paper on the Mechanism of Flight in the Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), considered in relation to its muscular anatomy.—Prof. Macalister read a paper on some Parasites found on Animals from the Dublin Zoological Gardens.—Rev. Dr. Haughton made some remarks on the recent death of four lion cubs in the Society's gardens.—Prof. Traquair exhibited a collection of carboniferous ganoid fishes from Wardie, in Scotland.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Institute of Natural Science, February 13.—J. M. Jones, F.L.S., President, in the chair. Dr. Honeyman, F.G.S., read a paper, "On the Geological Formation of the Picton Coal Field," which was a continuation of his record of geological discovery in Nova Scotia, delivered at the November meeting of the Institute. The present paper showed that the Devonian was absent, and that the underlying formations were Upper and Middle Silurian, arranged in several anticlinals, synclinals, and monoclinals. The lithological character of these formations at the time of the deposition of the overlying Carboniferous strata was as it now exists. The strata were more or less metamorphic, and the system of folds was, as has been indicated, and were washed on the north, south, and west, by the seas of the Carboniferous period. Lower Carboniferous conglomerate and grit succeeded by gypsum were deposited on Lower Helderberg strata (Upper Silurian), highly fossiliferous at Irish Mountain. Argillaceous shales with overlying limestones were formed on Lower Helderberg strata (very fossiliferous), and rather higher in the series than the strata of Irish Mountain. In Springville there are two localities where the Silurian strata on the same horizon as Irish Mountain (possibly a little lower) are overlaid *directly* by Lower Carboniferous limestone. Farther up the river there are three localities where Lower Carboniferous limestone overlies Silurian strata; in two cases, a breccia is formed with the limestone and metamorphic slates belonging to the lowest part (or nearly so) of the Middle Silurian age. In the remaining case, in the river at Pleasantville a great band of Lower Carboniferous limestone lies unconformably on Lower Helderberg or Upper Silurian, highly metamorphic. In Cross Brook, Irish Mountain, Lower Carboniferous sandstones with limestone overlie Clinton strata of the Irish Mountain Silurian series with fossils, and also the denuded axial greenstone. At McLellan's Brook, Lower Carboniferous grits succeeded by limestone come up against the back of Clinton strata of the other side of the Irish Mountain anticlinal. At the lowest falls of Sutherland's River, Lower Carboniferous conglomerate comes up against the back of the Medina slates, metamorphic, apparently non-fossiliferous of Wier's Mountain of the monoclinal series. Higher up Sutherland's River at McPherson's is the passage from the Picton into the Merigomish Carboniferous area. Here Lower Carboniferous grits containing a brine spring come up against the back of Medina strata, very little altered with characteristic Petraia and Lingulæ. These are succeeded by Clinton shales with cone in cone concretions and lingulæ nodules in abundance. In this district are two mountains with porphyry. Conglomerate, grit, argillaceous shale, and limestone of Lower Carboniferous age, have thus been formed contemporaneously. Then succeed alternations of sandstone and limestone and gypsum. Thus are formed limited areas of limestone in different geological positions and entirely disconnected. The order of formation of the representative beds of limestone appears to be as follows:—1. The Black pyritiferous limestone in closest contact with the Lower Helderberg slates having obscure brachiopoda visible, particularly by weathering. 2. The Lithostrotian limestones of Springville and McLellan's Brook. 3. Limestone strata with intercalary shales, below Springville Factory on the river, highly fossiliferous, containing Orthocera, Bellerophon, Gasteropoda, Conchifera, Crinoidea, and Fucoids. 4. Thick bedded limestone formed of an agglomeration of minute Conchifera and Crinoidea. Above this are strata with teeth of cochliodus. This limestone appears to be of the same age as similarly formed limestones on the West Branch having Conularia. In the Silurian formation on separate anticlinals are—1. An apparently valuable bed (?) of limonite. 2. A bed of fossiliferous iron ore of considerable thickness. 3. Pockets of specular iron ore. These, although separated, are of the same geological age—Clinton. The Medina and Lower Helderberg strata of the area examined, in their passage across rivers and brooks, form numerous waterfalls, some of which are mill sites. Fine exposures of Lower Helderberg fossiliferous strata in McLellan's Brook and Sutherland's River, form the foundation of a mill dam in the brook and formidable rapids in the river. The Picton Coal Field is well known through the writings of Dawson and others. Its thick coal seams have been represented by columns in the International Exhibitions of London, 1862, Dublin, 1865, Paris, 1867. In the discussion which followed, the President called attention in an interesting zoological fact mentioned by Dr. Honeyman to one part of his paper, viz.—the common cattle of the neighbourhood in which he had found a brine spring, resorting to such fountain and greedily drinking its waters. The same habit was also to be observed in the wild buffalo of the western prairies, which annually resorted to certain well-known "salt licks" for a similar purpose.

BERLIN

Berlin Society of Anthropology, Ethnology, &c.—Prof. Virchow continues (*Zeitschr. für Ethnologie*, 1870, vi.) his communications on the subject of the urns with sculptured faces, already treated by himself, by Nilsson, and by Kupfer; and also read a paper on "Settlements belonging to the Stone age in Nieder-Lausitz," &c., and a third on a visit to the Westphalian bone caverns. Among the same transactions may be noted a letter from Fisch on the *Framea*, in which he derives the word from the old Gothic *fram* (the English *from*) and explains to mean a weapon thrown *forwards*,—*telum missile:* the subject was again discussed at a late sitting (*ib.* iv. p. 347). A paper was read by V. Martens on the implements used by the Dyaks of the interior of Borneo: a letter from Kupfer on the remarkable vases with human faces which were the subject of Virchow's communication to the same society last March; and a long paper, with woodcuts, on the vitrified stone sites of Oberlausitz by Prof. Virchow, which shows with what accustomed ability the great pathologist pursues the inquiries which amuse his holidays.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, March 6.—M. Henry Sainte-Claire Deville proposed to his colleagues to enlarge the scope of their proceedings, and to deliberate upon any subject relating to social matters which can be promoted through the instrumentality of science. This idea was warmly advocated and supported by M. Bouley, M. Dumas, and others, and met with only one opponent, M. Combes, general inspector for Ponts-et-Chausées, who said that such a step was contrary to the rules of the Academy, and that the Academy besides had no right to pronounce on a communication from its own members. But ultimately the discussion of the proposition was referred to a secret committee, which is to be held probably next week. This sitting was rife with discussion.—M. Faye having referred to a special committee the project of a railway to be constructed between America and Europe through the Aleutian Islands, General Morin protested, saying it was merely wasting time to refer such wild schemes to members, and that the committee was, at all events, not bound to give any opinion at all. In spite of this protest, M. Faye referred the communication to a member in order to know from him if it was worth being sent before a special commission.—M. Delaunay and M. Bertrand disputed what was the precise opinion of M. Hopkins on the thickness of the solid crust of the earth. M. Delaunay said moreover that calculations proved it had no influence on the revolution of the earth, as no movement of the internal fluid could possibly have any effect whatever.—M. Bouley declared that the flesh of animals infected with the cattle plague was not unwholesome for food. It is true that such flesh is served out to poor people supplied from municipal benevolent institutions. But such is not the view taken by the paying public, as the purchase of beef is falling, and the sale of mutton or pork increasing daily. The rinderpest is raging so severely in the herds destined for the revictualling of Paris, that very often carts loaded with carcasses are seen passing through the streets of the city.—M. Janssen was present at the sitting, and he is going to London, where he will arrive by the end of the present week. Many of the *francs-fileurs* have resumed their seats without any remark having been passed upon them. M. Becquerel the elder, the celebrated electrician, died in Normandy during the investment of Paris. He was about 80 years of age. The water-tubs and towels disposed in case Prussian shells should set fire to the building have not yet been removed from the hall.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—The Natural History of the Strait of Magellan: R. O. Cunningham (Edmonston and Douglas)—The Story of Aristæus and his Bees: R. M. Millington (Longmans).—A Few Poems: E. Smith (Dunn and Fry). - The Ancient Geography of India: A. Cunningham (Trübner and Co.).—The Chronological History of Animal Plagues from B.C. 1490 to A.D. 1800: G. Fleming (Chapman and Hall).

FOREIGN.—(Through Williams and Norgate)—Die elektrische Doppelhebel: J. N. Czermak.—Untersuchungen aus den Institute für Physiologie u. Histologie in Graz 2tes Heft: A. Rollett.—Echinologie Helvétique: Désor et de Loriol.

DIARY

THURSDAY, MARCH 16.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Description of Ceratodus, a Genus of Ganoid Fishes, recently discovered in Rivers of Queensland, Australia: Dr. Günther, F.R.S.—On the Formation of some of the Sub-axial Arches in Man: G. W. Callender.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—On Photographs of Armenian Antiquities: Captain Lynch.—On an Undescribed Expedition to Britain in the Reign of Augustus: W. H. Black, F.S.A.—On certain inscribed leaves of lead in the British Museum: W. De Gray Birch.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Davy's Discoveries: Dr. Odling.

LONDON INSTITUTION, at 7.30.—On the Colonial Question: Prof. J. E. Thorold Rogers, M.A.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—On the Eclipse: J. Norman Lockyer, F.R.S.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Teeth of Mammalia: Prof. Flower.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Spirit of the Age: Mr. O'Neil.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19.

SUNDAY LECTURE SOCIETY, at 3.30.—The Total Eclipse: J. N. Lockyer.

MONDAY, MARCH 20.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.—Adjourned Discussion on the Racial Aspects of the Franco-Prussian War.—On the Migrations of the Georgians, Circassians, and Amazons, and their connection with the Tibeto-Caucasian Race: Mr. Hyde Clarke.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On Additions to the Atlantic Coleoptera: Mr. Wollaston.

VICTORIA INSTITUTE, at 8.—On some Curiosities of Ethnology:—Rev. J. H. Titcomb.

LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—On Astronomy: R. A. Proctor, F.R.A.S. (Educational Course.)

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Teeth of Mammalia: Prof. Flower.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 9.—Report on additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February 1871: P. L. Sclater.—On the Birds of Santa Lucia, West Indies: P. L. Sclater.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY, at 7.45.—On Statistical Returns required by Parliament: Mr. Purdy.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Nutrition of Animals: Dr. Foster.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Passage beds in the neighbourhood of Woolhope, Herefordshire, and on the Discovery of a new species of *Eurypterus*, and some new land-plants in them: Rev. P. B. Brodie, M.A., F.G.S.—On the Cliff-sections of the Tertiary beds west of Dieppe, in Normandy, and at Newhaven, in Sussex: W. Whitaker, B.A., F.G.S.—On New Tree-ferns and other Fossils from the Devonian: Prof. J. W. Dawson, F.R.S.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—On Drill, the Complement of the Present School Teaching: Major-General Eardley-Wilmot, R.A.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Teeth of Mammalia: Prof. Flower.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Davy's Discoveries: Dr. Odling.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.

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ERRATA.—Page 370, first column, line 10 from bottom, for "show us traces" read "show no traces"; second column, line 15, for "limit" read "limb."